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Procurement Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee
On
Foreign Language Publications

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
Calendar Year 1956

I. Responsibilities

The Procurement Subcommittee was established by the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications under the provisions of NSCID-16, 7 March 1953. The specific responsibility of the Procurement Subcommittee is to insure, for the Director of Central Intelligence, the "coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision". (NSCID-16, par.1)

II. Objectives and Accomplishments for 1956

- a. To determine the advisability of reporting by each member agency concerning the scope and product of its foreign publications procurement program.

There was disagreement on the propriety, vehicle and schedule for reporting by member agencies to the Subcommittee concerning the scope and product of their programs for procurement of foreign publications. It was agreed to continue efforts by the Subcommittee to resolve this problem.

- b. To continue efforts to coordinate requirements in Washington and collection in the field.

The most significant development along these lines was a survey trip by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Subcommittee. All full-time PPO's, excepting Moscow, and a large percentage of part-time PPO's were visited during the period 4 September - 26 November 1956. The purposes of the survey trip were to examine on-the-spot the problems facing these officers; to determine with each of them the advantages and disadvantages in having a single reporting and receiving point in the intelligence community to maintain information on and effect dissemination of foreign

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publications to various departments and agencies in the community; to determine the need for a full-time PPO in the Southeast Asian area; to expend, where feasible, exchanges with foreign academic research organizations, and to study the increased use of funds in Hong Kong, Berlin, Paris, and other key posts. The major results of the trip were as follows:

1. All full-time PPO's contacted were agreed that one central point, namely IAD, should continue to serve as the funnel through which the publications ordered or required by the cooperating departments and agencies should flow. There was general agreement on the fact that only through a central ordering and receiving point can unnecessary duplication be avoided, requirements be coordinated, and maximum effective use of the PPO's be obtained.
2. Use of funds in the key posts for publications procurement is currently complicated by inadequate estimates from participating agencies for their publication needs, the amount of time involved in transferring monies from the agencies to the Department of State, and the maintenance of several separate accounts by each PPO. The possibility of developing a single-fund concept similar to OLI/M practice was discussed and is detailed under item c. 25X1A6a
3. The need for a full-time PPO in the Southeast Asian area was found to be justified, provided the assignment were given to a qualified officer to be stationed at Singapore, with full responsibility for travel to Djakarta, Rangoon, Bangkok, and Saigon. There is neither adequate housing nor a sufficient potential in any of these posts, excepting Singapore, to justify assigning a full-time PPO unless the position is established as a revolving one.

4.

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since produced valuable organizational and biographic data in exchange for U.S. literature on library science. In Saigon, arrangements were completed to make North Vietnamese publications, procured by the Vietnam Government, available

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on a loan basis for photo-copying, The gift of a micro-film reader to the Vietnamese security forces constituted the exchange agreement.

5. Opportunities to discuss procurement problems with USIS field personnel resulted in agreements whereby USIS press officers and librarians will transmit to the PPO in their area any information on the availability of new or significant publications which may be uncovered. This is already in operation at Embassies Tokyo and Tehran.
- c. To study the possibility of a single fund concept for 1) serial subscriptions and 2) books and monographs at Embassy Moscow for all member agencies.

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developing the single fund concept, and sought the reactions of agencies and departments in the program. Having received general concurrence from them in the soundness of the idea, he brought the matter to the attention of Mr. Charles Manning, Director, Executive Staff of R. State. Mr. Manning is currently engaged in determining the legal and fiscal points involved, and hopes to have the concept in force by FY58.

- d. To determine the role of exchange programs in publications procurement.

Exchanges present opportunities to acquire foreign publications not available through any other channel. Previous paragraphs of this report have covered in part what is being done. The Library of Congress has an extensive exchange program of benefit to all government. ACSI reported on its program. State and CIA are also conducting active and beneficial activities in this area.

III. Objectives for 1957

- a. To study the possibility of expanding the single fund concept to all posts having full-time Publications Procurement Officers, after this has been successful in Moscow.
- b. To have more frequent meetings of the Procurement Subcommittee.
- c. To continue efforts to coordinate requirements in Washington and collection in the field.

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